

Are
You
Not
of
More
Value
Than
These?





Reflections

Not feeling very valuable these days? Does it seem that no one cares? Do you relate to the message of the lyrics of the old “spiritual” which declare ... *“no one knows the trouble I feel”*? There are many who might be tempted to agree with that lyric on the basis of their own feelings of alienation and rejection. It seems that depression, loneliness, and a sense of futility have become commonplace even among our youth who should be quite optimistically looking forward to a rewarding future.

If we were to examine some of these difficult life outlooks we very likely would observe lives that lack any sense of spirituality, or those that have placed their spiritual lives in the hands of religious traditions that have no connection to the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Many are living lives that have found emptiness in the pursuits of the world system where wealth, power, possessions, pleasure and other so-called benefits of society were supposed to provide fulfillment.

Jesus addresses this set of issues in His Word. Matthew records His teaching when He says... *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21 NKJ)* He further teaches... *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:25-26 NKJ)* Here we have two great life principles.

First we need to remember that our treasures and our hearts are intertwined so that when we spend our energy pursuing the world’s idea of treasure, our heart will join in that pursuit often leading to the emptiness that plagues so many. Secondly how God calls us to acknowledge that the truly satisfying supply of life’s needs can only come from our heavenly Father. Only He knows what we really need to be complete. A young man came to Jesus and questioned Him

regarding salvation. *Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”¹⁹ So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. ²⁰ “You know the commandments: “Do not commit adultery, “Do not murder, “Do not steal, “Do not bear false witness, “Honor your father and your mother.”²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”²² So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”²³ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. (Luke 18:18-23 NKJ).* The riches that the man owned had captured his heart and he was unable to let the challenge of Jesus show him the way to salvation. The power of his wealth had made him a slave that could not break free. He felt that his value was wrapped up in his riches.

The problem of the young man was not unique to him. In this day and age many have tied their worth to their position, their wealth, their looks, or their power and when troubling times come their way, they become disillusioned and begin to feel hopeless and without value. It is here that those who are in Christ Jesus can turn to Him and have their eternal value made known through His Word and through the witness of the Holy Spirit who confirms our relationship to Jesus. **(Romans 8:16)** Jesus called attention to the birds of the air to illustrate the reality of our value to our heavenly Father. He asks: *“Are you not of more value than they?”* He confirms our value when He says: **your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. (Matthew 6:8 NKJ)**

Can we ever fully appreciate the reality that God has said we are of such great value to Him that He has promised to meet our needs if we accept the Son, Christ Jesus? Even further He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for our sins that upon accepting Him by faith we can have eternal life. To be loved by our heavenly father so much, certainly communicates that He has seen great value in each us for Him to provide such a great and wonderful gift: salvation in His Son.

And so my friends, when you begin to feel lonely, left out, disillusioned or depressed, remember that God loves you so much that He has promised to meet your needs. Turn to Him in your time of trouble, read His Word, spend time in prayer for yourself, but also for your friends and His Spirit will cause all things to work for good. When we are called according to His purpose He has promised that very thing. **Pastor Doug**